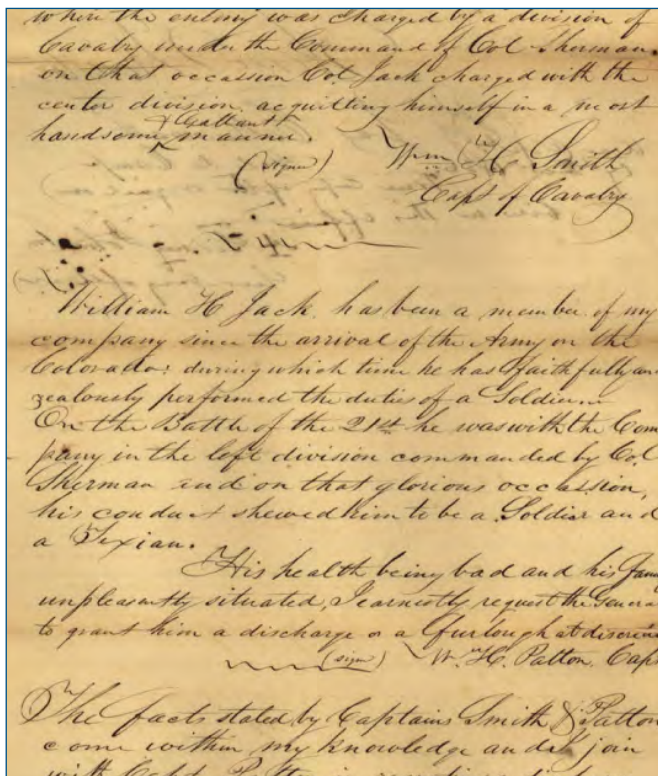




Saving TEXAS HISTORY

The Texas General Land Office
Archives and Records Newsletter
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner
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William H. Jack's discharge, signed by Sam Houston the day after the Battle of San Jacinto, so he could rejoin his family. April 22, 1836. Court of Claims file #4269.

New Exhibits: A Sea of Mud and a New Reality – Texas After the Battle of San Jacinto

by James Harkins

The Battle of San Jacinto is considered one of the most important in history because of the amount of territory that changed hands and the geopolitical shift following the Texan victory on April 21, 1836. Archival documents and archeological findings regarding the retreating Mexican Army and triumphant Texans are featured in a new exhibit at the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records.

On loan to the Land Office from Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M University are several archeological artifacts donated by Dr. Gregg Dimmick. One of the featured speakers at the 2nd Annual Save Texas History Symposium, Dimmick explains in his book, *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexi-*

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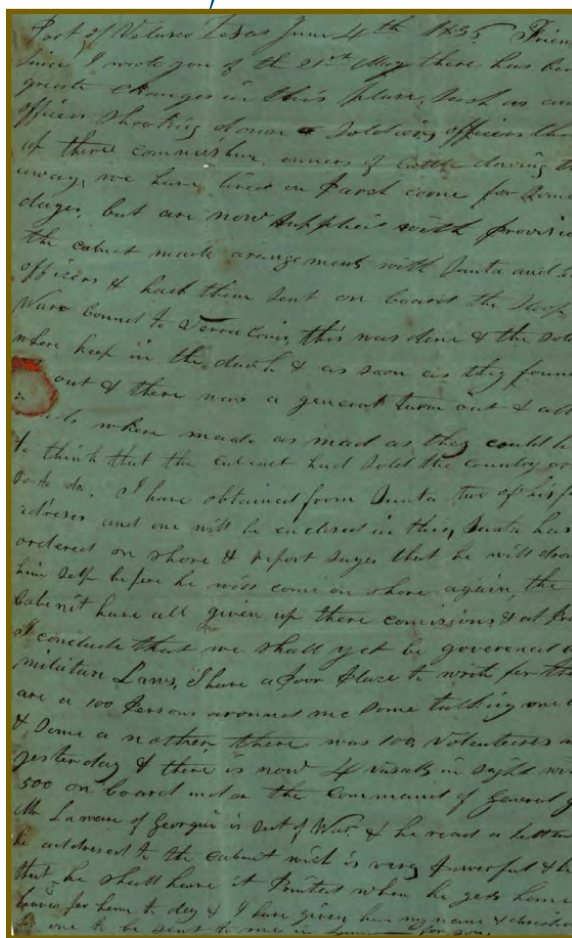
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Letter written by Charles Clough describing how he found out about the Texan victory at San Jacinto and his mission of guarding Santa Anna. Velasco, TX. June 4, 1836. Court of Claims file #1619.

net that a Mexican soldier would have carried on his march through Texas. Included in the exhibit are trigger guards, side plate fragments, musket balls, spurs, a ramrod pipe, a howitzer shell and several other pieces that were found in the Wharton County dig.



Archeological items found in Wharton County, on loan from the Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

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can Army After San Jacinto, An Archeological Investigation, that until recently there were two weeks in 1836 missing from the historical record. During that brief period, more than 2,500 Mexican soldiers and 1,500 female camp followers struggled and suffered in the muddy fields of what is now Wharton County, Texas.

Dimmick, a pediatrician and “avocational archaeologist,” began a search in Wharton County to find evidence of the Mexican Army’s withdrawal from Texas. Within two weeks of starting, artifacts were unearthed with the help of the Houston Archeological Society. The dig turned up hundreds of items, providing details on munitions, arms, uniforms and personal items that help paint a more accurate picture of Santa Anna’s army and its retreat.

On exhibit at the Land Office is a reproduction of an India Pattern Brown Bess musket with a bayonet

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A sketch of Arthur and Peggy McCormick's League, where the Battle of San Jacinto took place. Harris County Sketch File 1.

“As many people across the state may know, I am somewhat of a firearms enthusiast,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “To see the replica Brown Bess, and the pieces that make up this weapon on display here at the GLO, helps bring to life what life would have been like for the Mexican soldiers as they fled Texas. I believe that it’s important to look at history from all possible angles in order to get a better understanding of what happened. One reason we started the Save Texas History program in 2004 was to better educate the public about Texas history. This exhibit does a great job of showing both sides of the Texas Revolution and the reality of war in 1836.”

The General Land Office went on a dig of its own while piecing the exhibit together. Rather than digging through the mud, however, Land Office staff members dug through archival documents and maps to help tell the story of a new reality in Texas. After the fighting had subsided, Texans faced a whole new set of worries, both collectively and individually.

Many of the men and women elevated to near mythic status following the Texas Revolution were ordinary people caught up in extraordinary times, and forced to act in extraordinary ways. And for many of them, the primary concern was survival, family and property.

“The people of Texas have such a rich history, and the documents in the GLO Archives convey that powerful story,” Patterson said. “The emotions that these brave men and women had can be found throughout these documents. Who can’t identify with a soldier who wants to return to his family after battle, like William H. Jack? And who can’t identify with Peggy McCormick, a widow, who simply wanted her land returned to how it was prior to the fighting of April 21, 1836? And who can’t recognize the excitement of Charles Clough, who fired his guns in the air when learning about the defeat of Santa Anna, and was then tasked with protecting the despot a few days later? These are tales that are remarkably similar to what veterans are going through today. And again, proof that we learn from history.”

The exhibit *A Sea of Mud and a New Reality – Texas After the Battle of San Jacinto*, will run from November 2011 through April 2012 in the Research Room of the Land Office Archives and Records. If you would like to visit the Archives to see this exhibit, or attend a tour of the Archives, please contact archives@glo.texas.gov to set up an appointment, or call 512-463-5277. *

Tell Us About Your Experience at the Land Office Archives

Have you had a good experience with the Texas General Land Office Archives? Maybe you attended a tour or presentation that took your breath away. Or maybe you learned something that you never knew about Texas history. Perhaps you discovered a document that shed some new light on one of your ancestors.

Please Friend Save Texas History on Facebook, and share your experience with us. Or, if you are not on Facebook, please email archives@glo.texas.gov with details about your experience at the Archives.

The best story about a member of the public’s experience with the General Land Office Archives will appear in the next edition of *Saving Texas History* and will win a free map for the writer! *

Give the Gift of Texas History for Christmas

Need a Christmas gift for someone interested in Texas history, or for the family genealogist? Do you need a gift for someone who just moved to a new town or for the person who has lived in the same place forever? The Texas General Land Office has a map for that.

The Land Office has tens of thousands of maps suitable for just about any occasion for a Texan. "My family owned land in Brenham for as long as I can remember," said James Harkins, a member of the Archives and Records staff. "A few Christmases ago, I decided to give my grandmother a map of Washington County, where Brenham is located. I was able to locate where our family's land was, and I highlighted the original land survey on the map. I also combined the map with copies of the original land grant paperwork so that the family could see the certificate associated with the land."

"That was a gift that gets talked about every year. It was original, and something that no one in the family had ever really thought about. Now the map hangs on the wall in my grandmother's living room, and I get to tell the story at least once every holiday season."

Another gift idea is the 2012 Save Texas History Map Calendar, available for just \$5. The calendar features a different map for every month, and an interesting fact for every day of the year. For just \$10, a "This Week in Texas History" CD is available, or you can get the entire set of four CDs for \$35. This Week in Texas History features different stories in Texas history for every week of the year. These are the stories that made Texas great. Remember, calendars and CDs are limited in number, so be sure to order early by calling 512-463-3289, or emailing archives@glo.texas.gov. ✨

This Holiday Season...

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Scanning Update: 2.2 Million Documents Down, 33.4 Million to Go

by James Harkins

The Texas General Land Office Archives and Records has been at the forefront of archival scanning for the last decade by digitally recreating its documents. Through the efforts of the Scan Lab staff, over 80,000 maps, sketches and drawings have been scanned and made available online, as well as 2.2 million documents through the Land Grant Database. This tremendous feat constitutes the single largest archival scanning effort in the nation.

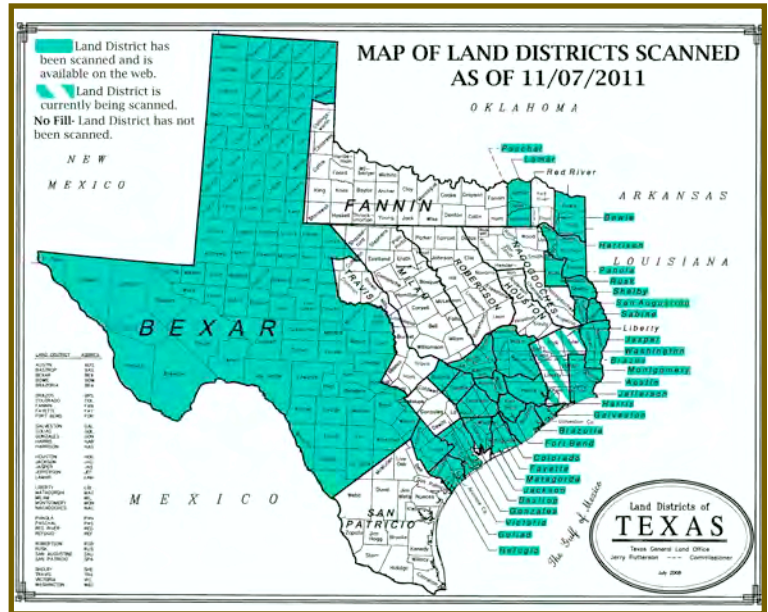
Various collections at the Land Office have been systematically scanned and placed online, including the Court of Claims, the Republic Donation Vouchers and Confederate Scrip Vouchers. Susan Dorsey, Director of Technical Services for the Land Office Archives, has always been at the center of the project. “Susan has been the one driving the bus for this scanning operation for a long time,” said Mark Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Archives and Records. “She had the vision that the best way to conserve and provide access to these documents was to scan them and put them online. When this project was first being conceptualized, Susan was the innovator who realized that the world was going digital and that it made the most sense for our archives to go digital as well.”

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, an avid student of history, was highly complimentary of the scanning project. “The work that the Scan Lab has done over the last 10 years is truly amazing,” he said. “This dedicated group of people has shown what state employees are capable of, and they make even me look good. The work that the Scan Lab has done has revolutionized the way people access the records of the GLO. What used to take weeks, including traveling to Austin by horse or train to access these documents, can now take just a few seconds, as these documents can be accessed from home via the Internet. This is truly remarkable.”

Among the staff members who’ve done yeoman’s work at the Scan Lab are Rather “Binky” Reese-Goodman, Diane Garcia, Jonathan Palmer, Julia de la Teja, Laurel Atkins, Ileana Gutierrez, Davy Munsterman, Jerry Drake, Kenny Helgren, Kerry Rush and several others.

Archives and Records staffers have been scanning the Land Grant files for the 38 different Land Districts over the last 10 years. Only the Fannin, Houston, Liberty, Milam, Nacogdoches, Red River, Robertson, San Patricio and Travis Land Districts still need to be scanned. Twenty-nine of the 38 land districts are viewable online.

The biggest hurdle to date has been the Bexar Land District, which is the largest land district in Texas, stretching west from present-day Bexar County to El Paso, and north through the entire Panhandle. Tasked with this job on December 27, 2006, Reese-Goodman began scanning. He scanned and he scanned, and just when he thought he was done, he kept scanning some more. In total, he scanned 77,877 files—the entire Bexar Land District—until October 31, 2011. This included 745,277 scans over the span of 767 working days (or 972 scans per day). Additional work was needed



Map of Land Districts Scanned As of 11/7/2011. This map indicates, in green, that all land grants in those areas are available for viewing online in the Land Grant Database.

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to bring these files to fruition, including attaching meta-data to the scans, quality control, transferring to servers, and much more.

The General Land Office Archives and Records continues to innovate and provide excellent service to the taxpayers of Texas by scanning the archival records of the agency. "We strive to provide historical content and land records to the people of Texas in as easy a way as possible," Lambert said. "It's still going to be a long time, but one day, we will have duplicated our entire archival holdings for the world to see. This will protect the documents, provide easier access to the public, and create a whole new level of archival transparency that is unmatched anywhere else in the country."

To access the millions of Land Grant documents and items from the Special Collection, please visit the online Land Grant Database (<http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/index.cfm>).

**STATUS OF SCANNED LAND GRANT FILES ON THE GLO WEBSITE
BY LAND DISTRICT (AS OF 11/7/2011)**

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| AUSTIN COMPLETE | HARRIS COMPLETE | PANOLA COMPLETE |
| BASTROP COMPLETE | HARRISON COMPLETE | PASCHAL COMPLETE |
| BEXAR COMPLETE | HOUSTON INCOMPLETE | RED RIVER INCOMPLETE |
| BOWIE COMPLETE | JACKSON COMPLETE | REFUGIO COMPLETE |
| BRAZOS COMPLETE | JASPER COMPLETE | ROBERTSON INCOMPLETE |
| BRAZORIA COMPLETE | JEFFERSON COMPLETE | RUSK COMPLETE |
| COLORADO COMPLETE | LAMAR COMPLETE | SABINE COMPLETE |
| FANNIN INCOMPLETE | LIBERTY THROUGH LIBERTY 3 000340 (29.97%) | SAN AUGUSTINE COMPLETE |
| FAYETTE COMPLETE | MATAGORDA COMPLETE | SAN PATRICIO INCOMPLETE |
| FORT BEND COMPLETE | MILAM INCOMPLETE | SHELBY COMPLETE |
| GALVESTON COMPLETE | MONTGOMERY COMPLETE | TRAVIS INCOMPLETE |
| GOLIAD COMPLETE | NACOGDOCHES INCOMPLETE | VICTORIA COMPLETE |
| GONZALES COMPLETE | | WASHINGTON COMPLETE |

Save Texas History Symposium Aired on CSPAN 3

One of the more fascinating and little known dramas in Texas history enjoyed star treatment on CSPAN 3 when the channel aired a session from the 2011 Save Texas History Symposium.

Wharton pediatrician and “avocational archeologist” Dr. Gregg Dimmick told the story of the Mexican Army’s retreat after the battle of San Jacinto in the segment, which aired November 27, December 3 and December 4 on CSPAN 3.

Dimmick was one of the speakers at the 2011 Save Texas History Symposium, held at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on October 1. Proceeds from the annual symposium go toward the General Land Office’s Save Texas History program, which promotes education and preservation of historic documents and maps.



Dr. Gregg Dimmick tells the story of the Mexican Army’s retreat after the Battle of San Jacinto in a segment that aired on CSPAN 3.

Dimmick, author of *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto*, described how his research re-wrote the history of the Mexican Army’s ill-fated 1836 retreat from Texas, in which more than 2,500 Mexican soldiers and 1,500 female camp followers became bogged down in the muddy fields of what is now Wharton County.

The entire United States will have the opportunity to see other segments of the symposium on CSPAN 3 throughout the year, because all the morning sessions were filmed. “Down here in Texas, we do our history right, and we want the entire country to know,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “Texas history is filled with stories of heroism and lessons for the future. The symposium highlighted several lessons, like the financial collapse of the Republic of Texas, as explained by Jim Bevill. I think some non-Texans would be well served to pay attention.” ✨

FIDDLIN’ TO VICTORY

APRIL 1836 AND TEXANS ARE FIDDLIN’ TO VICTORY

This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.

April 21, 1836. San Jacinto. After a month-long retreat, Sam Houston and his ragtag army finally face Mexican troops under Santa Anna. Houston readies his men for battle, but he needs marching music.

According to family legend, fiddlers Daniel Davis and his son George are asked to play a tune as troops advance. They choose the unlikely tune, “Will Ya Come to the Bower,” a romantic and risqué English ballad.

To the sound of Davis’ fiddle, Texans defeat over a thousand Mexican troops in only 18 minutes.

Texas fiddled its way to freedom 172 years ago.
This Week in Texas History.



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